

Message Text

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3268

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 5336

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNDP, EAID, OCON, CU

SUBJECT: CUBA AS VENUE FOR THE 22D SESSION UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL

REF: STATE 247658

1. MINCOUN MET WITH UNDP GC SECRETARY PIERRE BOURGOIS TO AGAIN EXPRESS CONCERN AND COMPLICATIONS WHICH CUBAN INVITATION HOLDS. KITCHEN STATED THAT AT A MINIMUM THE UNDP ADMINISTRATION HAS A PROFESSIONAL OBLIGATION TO DEAL WITH THE DIFFICULTIES THAT WOULD FACE US BY HAVING TO MEET AWAY FROM HQ DURING 1976, A CRUCIAL PROGRAM AND ADMINISTRATIVE YEAR FOR UNDP. HE CITED PRECEDENT OF UPPER VOLTA AND THE PHILIPPINES WHERE IN ONE CASE AND INVITATION HAD NOT BEEN TENDERED AND IN THE OTHER AN INVITATION HAD BEEN POSTPONED AT THE BEHEST OF THE UNDP ADMINISTRATION. STRESSING THE POSSIBLE COST OF ACQUIESCING IN SUCH A CUBAN INVITATION, WE URGED THAT PETERSON FOCUS IN DEPTH ON THIS ISSUE AS A PRIORITY.

2. MINCOUN ALSO REMINDED BOURGOIS THAT IN ASSESSING VALIDITY OF CUBAN INVITATION, ADMINISTRATOR SHOULD KNOW THAT IN DUE COURSE USG WOULD REQUIRE WRITTEN ASSURANCES THAT ALL STATES MEMBERS OF THE UN WOULD BE PERMITTED TO ENTER CUBA AND PARTICIPATE. FYI. WE EXPRESSLY STATED THAT THIS WOULD MEAN A PARTICULAR ASSURANCE THAT ISRAEL WOULD BE PERMITTED TO ENTER CUBA AS AN OBSERVER. EXPECTATION IS THAT THIS INSISTENCE WILL CREATE CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY FOR CUBA WHICH HAS TOWED THE NAC LINE IN RESPECT OF
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ISRAELI PARTICIPATION IN THE PAST. ENY FYI. BOURGOIS ACCEPTED

THE FIRST SUGGESTION AND PROMISED THE EXECUTIVE STAFF WOULD AGAIN URGE PETERSON TO RAISE OUR OBJECTIONS TO MEETINGS AWAY FROM HQ IN 1976 ON GROUNDS OF EFFICIENCY AND CONVENIENCE. HE ALSO ASSURED US THAT UNDP PREPARED RAISE ISSUE OF ISRAELI ATTENDANCE IN DUE COURSE. BOURGOIS REQUESTED OUR GUIDANCE IN DETERMINING MOST APPROPRIATE TIME TO RAISE THIS QUESTION, I.E., SOONER OR LATER.

3. REQUEST GUIDANCE IN RESPECT OF WHEN ALL STATES PARTICIPATION ISSUE SHOULD BE RAISED. WE INCLINE TOWARD HAVING THIS ISSUE RAISED DISCREETLY BY THE ADMINISTRATION AT AN EARLY DATE. WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT'S INDICATION OF ANY OTHER MEMBER STATE WHOSE PRESENCE IN CUBA MIGHT BE DIFFICULT FOR GOC TO SWALLOW.

4. WE HAVE NOT LEFT IMPRESSION THAT OVERCOMING THE UNIVERSAL PARTICIPATION ISSUE WOULD MEAN THAT THE US WOULD THEN AGREE TO A HAVANA VENUE. WE WILL BE TAKING CARE TO AVOID SUCH AN IMPRESSION WHEN EMPLOYING PARTICIPATION ARGUMENT.
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